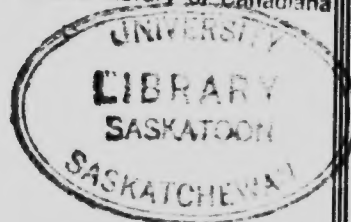
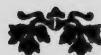


SASKATCHEWAN'S **BILL OF RIGHTS**

**Measures necessary by Dominion Parliament
and Urgently Required for Saskatchewan's
Continued Progress and Prosperity**

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1917

***As Adopted by the Great
Liberal Convention at Moose Jaw
March 28 and 29, 1917***



Issued by the Central Office of the Provincial Liberal Party

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SASKATCHEWAN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Believing that the future prosperity of the people of Saskatchewan and the further development of their provincial facilities and institutions depends very largely upon action by the Parliament of Canada, the Convention of Saskatchewan Liberals pledged adherence to the following policies which, in their opinion, are essential to the achievement of these aims:

Tariff and Markets—Free access for the grain products of Saskatchewan to the markets of the United States and of all other countries willing to grant such free entry.

The admission into Canada, free of customs duties, of farm machinery and all things essential to the raising of grain and live stock products.

A general lowering of the customs duties on all necessities of life.

The immediate reduction of the customs duties on all goods imported from Great Britain to one-half of the rates charged under the general tariff, and a policy of further gradual reduction with a view to the elimination of all trade restrictions within the Empire.

New outlets for our farm products and especially a speedy completion of the Hudson Bay Railway owned and operated by the Government of Canada, and that provision be made for the operation of suitable steamers to be run between the Bay and Great Britain.

Natural Resources.—The transfer to the Province of the public domain and natural resources within its borders, with a view to the control and development of the same for the benefit of the Province and its people.

School Lands.—The transfer to the Province of all school lands and of the school endowment fund which up to the present under Federal control have produced scarcely more than one-half of the revenue for school purposes that could easily be obtained under Provincial management.

Banking Facilities—Such changes in the banking system of Canada as will permit of the establishment of local agricultural banks in close touch with local conditions and with the needs of the farming industry.

C.P.R. Tax Exemption.—The removal of the exemption from taxation now enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Prohibition of Liquor Traffic.—The enactment of legislation prohibiting the manufacture in, or (except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes) importation into, Saskatchewan of intoxicating liquor, and respectfully request the Parliament of Canada forthwith to enact such legislation.

Women's Franchise.—The extension of the Federal franchise to the women of Saskatchewan.

Believing that the future prosperity of the people of Saskatchewan and the further development of their Provincial facilities and institutions depends very largely upon action by the Parliament of Canada, the Convention of Saskatchewan Liberals pledged adherence to the following policies, which, in their opinion, are essential to the achievement of these aims.

No Provincial Legislature can effectively deal with all the problems which have a bearing upon the prosperity of its people and the development of Provincial facilities and institutions. Many problems of great importance to the people of Saskatchewan can only be dealt with, under our Constitution, by the Parliament of Canada. In order that action may be assured by the Dominion Parliament it is necessary that public opinion within the Province should express itself strongly, not only through its representatives in the House of Commons at Ottawa, but also through every other representative body in the Province, and particularly the Provincial Legislature, whose duty it is, among other things, to make representations on behalf of the people of the Province to the Dominion Government.

Saskatchewan Liberals recognised fully at their great Moose Jaw Convention, the obligations of Liberalism in this connection, and unanimously adopted the policies dealt with in these pages as the solutions of problems of vital importance to the people of the Province, in fact so important as to constitute a **BILL OF RIGHTS** to which Saskatchewan is entitled from the Dominion as a whole.

BILL OF RIGHTS

NEW MARKETS.

Free access for the grain products of Saskatchewan to the markets of the United States and of all other countries willing to grant such free entry.

Since the indorsation of the foregoing policy at the Provincial Liberal Convention, the Dominion Government has at last accepted the long outstanding offer of the United States Government for the admission into that country free of duty of our Wheat. This action

of the Borden administration is none the less welcome because it comes as a distinct surprise to those of us who were branded as traitors and annexationists by the Tory party during the last Dominion election, and ever since on account of our advocacy of this very policy.

But while it is proper to rejoice at this long deferred act of justice, it is well for the people of Saskatchewan not to allow themselves to be lulled into inactivity by what has just been done. The following facts must be borne in mind:

(1) The free Wheat concession has been granted by the Borden Government **only as a war measure**, and may be revoked by them at any time. **It is our duty to see that this policy becomes permanent and remains in force after the war.**

(2) Barley, Oats and Flax still remain confronted with the tariff barrier. The United States Government is willing to admit these products free, as well as Wheat. Why is this offer not accepted? Why should the producers of these grains be discriminated against? **We must continue to agitate until these products are admitted free in addition to Wheat.**

(3) This first breach in the tariff wall must be the signal for us to renew and redouble our efforts along the whole line at once. **Not to follow up this advantage might be fatal to the West.**

TARIFF.

The admission into Canada, free of all customs duties, of farm machinery and all things essential to the raising of grain and live stock products.

A general lowering of the customs duties on all necessities of life.

The cost of raising grain and live stock products in Saskatchewan has, in recent years, been the subject of study by many thinking men. There are one or two points on which all who have given the subject unbiassed thought from the producer's standpoint agree. One of these is that in connection with grain production, the cost to the Saskatchewan farmer of raising and transporting his grain to the world's market at Liverpool is greater than the cost to the farmer of any other country who is competing with him in that market. There is no doubt that when the great war is over, competition on the Liverpool market for the British and European trade between grain exporting countries will be keener than ever, and every means must be taken to ensure that the Saskatchewan farmer will not be at a disadvantage and forced to sell at a loss. This problem is rendered more serious by the recent action of the British Government in guaranteeing a minimum price for grain grown in Great Britain

during the next five years, which must have the effect of increasing production there. To whatever extent production in Europe is increased, to that extent less is required from exporting countries such as Canada, Russia, Australia, India, Argentine, etc., and the keener the competition between these countries must become.

In order to give the Saskatchewan farmer a fair chance under these conditions it is absolutely necessary that all artificial items in the cost of production be eliminated. The largest artificial item in the cost of raising grain and live stock products in Saskatchewan is undoubtedly the protective tariff levied on all the articles which the farmer must purchase in the business of raising his products. More than one-third of the cost of these articles is accounted for by the existence of the tariff, which in the case of goods coming in from other countries forms part of the Customs Revenue of Canada, but which in the case of articles manufactured in Canada goes into the pockets of the manufacturers in Eastern Canada. It is a fact that many articles manufactured in Canada are sold in other countries cheaper than they are sold to the Saskatchewan farmer.

The Liberal party in Saskatchewan has always stood and stands to-day for the removal of this tax on production, and while the Tory party will say that this is not a Provincial issue, nevertheless the fact is that it is an issue which affects the prosperity of every citizen of the Province. The election of Tory candidates in the forthcoming Provincial elections would be taken by the eastern protectionists as evidence that Saskatchewan farmers are content to be robbed by means of the protective tariff which is supported by every Tory, whether Provincial or Federal.

BRITISH PREFERENCE.

The immediate reduction of the customs duties on all goods imported from Great Britain to one-half of the rates charged under the general tariff, and a policy of further gradual reduction with a view to the elimination of all trade restrictions within the Empire.

Tory protectionists are always loud in their protestations of loyalty to the Empire. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association particularly poses as an imperialistic body. It is worthy of note, however, that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Tory party generally are particularly anxious to keep a high tariff wall around Canada, even to the extent of a high tariff against imports from Great Britain. This kind of loyalty is of the same type as that of the munition manufacturer who in the most self-sacrificing manner turns his plant into a munition factory at a 300% profit.

Saskatchewan Liberals believe that British goods should be eventually admitted to this country free of customs duty, and as a start propose that an immediate reduction to one-half the general tariff should be made, and a further gradual reduction until trade restrictions within the Empire are eliminated.

Not only is such a policy patriotic in a practical way, but it would provide a distinct check on those patriotic big interests which are robbing the people of Canada under the wing of the Protective Tariff and the Tory party to-day.

NEW OUTLETS.

New outlets for our farm products and especially a speedy completion of the Hudson's Bay Railway, owned and operated by the Government of Canada, and that provision be made for the operation of suitable steamers to be run between the Bay and Great Britain.

The congestion which is now an annual affair in connection with the marketing of our farm products is due largely to the fact that all our products must pass through the one eastern channel on their way to the markets of the world.

A new outlet via Hudson's Bay has been the dream of the Saskatchewan farmer for years past, and the Tory Government at Ottawa, since the Liberals were defeated on the Reciprocity issue in 1911, have proceeded with the construction of this line of railway in a most dilatory manner, while every spring in Saskatchewan hundreds of thousands of bushels of the previous year's crop lie rotting for lack of sufficient outlets.

The Liberal party at its convention declared for rushing completion of this line, the operation of it by the Dominion Government, and what is very necessary if an outlet for grain is to be provided, a line of steamers to operate between the Bay and Great Britain.

NATURAL RESOURCES.

The transfer to the Province of the public domain and natural resources within its borders, with a view to the control and development of the same for the benefit of the Province and its people.

The lands, coal and other minerals, forests, water powers and all other natural resources in Saskatchewan are owned and controlled by the Dominion Government. The people most interested in the development of these resources are the people of the Province. Gradually our great heritage is being frittered away, passing into the hands of speculators often, and in general is not being developed or conserved for the benefit of the people of the Province. Surely the

people who can be best relied upon to safely and develop assets of this character are the people most intimately concerned, those who stand to gain or lose according as the resources are efficiently administered.

Liberalism in Saskatchewan believes that all these resources should be turned over to the people of the Province for control and development.

SCHOOL LANDS.

The transfer to the Province of all school lands and of the school endowment fund which up to the present under Federal control, have produced scarcely more than one-half of the revenue for school purposes that could easily be obtained under Provincial management.

One of the most pressing and difficult problems of a new, sparsely settled community like Saskatchewan is the making of adequate and efficient provision for schools. This was recognized when Western Canada was first opened for settlement, and in order that funds for educational purposes might be steadily available, two sections of land in every township were set aside to form a school endowment fund. The lands are offered for sale by auction from time to time and are sold on deferred payments at 5% interest. Payments of principal made by purchasers from time to time are deposited in a trust fund in charge of the Dominion Government, and the Province receives from the trust fund interest at the rate of 3% per annum on the total amount on deposit. In addition to the above, all sums of interest on deferred payments paid by purchasers are forwarded to the Province by the Dominion Government, after deducting cost of administration. It will be readily seen that the value of the School Land Trust Fund as a means of financing education in the Province, depends absolutely upon efficient administration by the Dominion Government, which has certainly not been provided. During the last session of the Legislature figures were made public which showed that up to November, 1916, over \$2,800,000 principal was overdue and uncollected, besides over \$809,000 interest which should have been immediately available for educational purposes in the Province.

There is only one remedy for a condition such as this, and here again the people who have to depend upon the proceeds of the School Land Endowment Fund for the financing of their educational system are surely the people who can be trusted to administer the lands and the fund most efficiently.

The Liberal party of Saskatchewan, therefore, believes that it is in the interests of the whole people of the Province that this fund should be transferred to Provincial control.

BANKING FACILITIES.

Such changes in the banking system of Canada as will permit of the establishment of local agricultural banks in close touch with local conditions and with the needs of the farming industry.

One of the greatest needs of our agricultural industry is a system of banking credits suited to its particular needs, just as the present system of chartered banks meets the needs of the manufacturing and mercantile industries.

Two forms of credit are needed by farmers in order to successfully meet the situation.

One form is that of long term farm mortgage credit to enable the producer to spread his capital investment over a long period of years at a low rate of interest. This form of credit has now been provided for by The Saskatchewan Farm Loans Act, which was passed at the last session of the Legislature.

The second form of credit required by farmers might be described as seasonal credit. From the time the farmer commences his preparations for seeding in the spring he is investing money in the production of that year's crop, which he cannot possibly realise upon until the crop is marketed in the fall. He needs money to pay for labour and the hundred and one other things which are necessary in order to produce that crop.

A manufacturer can secure money under our present banking system wherewith to pay the costs of manufacture, etc., which moneys are repayable when the articles manufactured are marketed, but systematic short term credits at reasonable rates are not available to the farmer, and hence the farming industry is seriously handicapped. The real reason for this condition is that the present banking system was devised to meet the peculiar needs of manufacturing and does not fit the requirements of the farming industry at all.

The present system of branches of chartered banks in rural communities managed often by men of very limited knowledge of agriculture, and with very limited powers of lending, at high rates of interest, is seriously hindering agricultural development.

Let a farmer go into any bank in Saskatchewan to apply for a loan of over \$500, and he will find,—no matter how secure his financial standing may be,—that the manager can do nothing for him without referring his application to his head office, which is generally in Toronto or Montreal, and never nearer than Winnipeg.

Short term agricultural credit at reasonable rates of interest has been made possible in other countries by means of the establishment of local agricultural banks, which by reason of purely local management, instead of management a thousand miles away, are able to adequately deal with the problem.

Under our constitution the Provincial Government cannot do anything to remedy the situation, as banking, or short term credit, is entirely under the control of the Parliament of Canada.

Saskatchewan Liberals believe that it is the right of agriculture, which is the main industry of our Province, to have available for its use just as good banking facilities as are available to the manufacturer of Eastern Canada, and therefore have included in Saskatchewan's Bill of Rights a demand for changes in the banking system of Canada which will bring this about.

C. P. R. TAX EXEMPTION.

The removal of the exemption from taxation now enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Saskatchewan Liberalism has always protested against one of the wealthiest corporations in the world being allowed freedom from taxation. It is unjust to the taxpayers in our municipalities that they should be compelled to bear a larger burden than is equitably theirs, because the C.P.R. is exempt. Only the Dominion Parliament can set this matter right, and the Saskatchewan Liberal party is undoubtedly speaking for the people of the Province in advocating the removal of this special privilege.

This injustice is particularly flagrant when it is borne in mind that this C.P.R. burden bears only upon Saskatchewan and the other Provinces of the Middle West, which are thus made to pay for the construction of a railway which unites Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

THE PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The enactment of legislation prohibiting the manufacture in, or (except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes) importation into, Saskatchewan of intoxicating liquor, and respectfully request the Parliament of Canada forthwith to enact such legislation.

Saskatchewan has led the whole of Canada in temperance legislation, and with the passage of The Saskatchewan Temperance Act and the Act preventing the storing of liquor in the Province for export to other provinces, the Provincial Legislature has kept pace with the growth of temperance sentiment in the Province.

There are no means, however, whereby the Provincial Government can prevent liquor being shipped into, or manufactured in, Saskatchewan, these matters being entirely within the control of the Dominion Parliament.

The breweries now operating in Saskatchewan are not affected by the Provincial Temperance Act, and cannot be, as they are licensed by the Dominion Government.

There can be no doubt that the people of Saskatchewan who have approved with such unanimity the restrictive measures of the Provincial Liberal Government, strongly object to the position that there is no Provincial means of preventing liquor being shipped into the Province.

The Tory party at Ottawa, with characteristic shuffling, has pretended to deal with the question by the passage of the Doherty Act, and our Provincial Tories, as usual, dutifully obeying the will of their Ottawa masters, are now howling for legislation which would make it a crime for any citizen of the Province to possess any liquor except accompanied by a doctor's prescription. The Tory scheme, therefore, is to leave in operation all the breweries and distilleries manufacturing liquor, thus making it possible for citizens of this Province to get all the liquor they want from outside the Province and also for citizens of other provinces to get liquor from Dominion licensed breweries in this Province, but to make it a crime for any person to take advantage of the continued manufacture of liquor licensed by the Tory Government at Ottawa, by purchasing and having it in his possession.

In other words, the Tory scheme involves allowing the Province to become flooded with liquor, and then putting it up to the police in the Province to arrest those who have it in their possession.

No wonder not a single Province in the Dominion has taken advantage of the Doherty Act. Not only is its legality doubtful and the subject of debate between legal experts, but apart from this factor altogether, every province in Canada, and also the organised temperance forces in Canada, recognise that to attempt to administer a law which would depend upon the spy in the homes of the people for its efficiency, would probably set back the cause of temperance instead of advancing it.

Saskatchewan Liberals believe that the Parliament of Canada, which alone has the power, should enact a law clearly prohibiting manufacture of liquor in the Province, and also clearly prohibiting its importation into the Province, except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes.

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

The extension of the Federal Franchise to the women of Saskatchewan.

The strange anomaly now exists in this Province that although the women may vote in Provincial elections, they have no vote in Dominion elections.

The Tory party in power at Ottawa has carefully sidestepped this question up to date, no doubt because among other reasons they are afraid of the votes of the women whose men folk have enlisted. Saskatchewan Liberalism extended the Provincial franchise to women and believes that public opinion is fully ready to advance the further step.

VOTE for LIBERAL CANDIDATES

because they stand for all these

measures urgently necessary for the

PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

: : of our Province : :





